

Massachusetts Certified Batterer Intervention Programs

Annual Statistics

Fiscal Year 2006 (7/1/05-6/30/06)

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What are certified batterer intervention programs?

Certified batterer intervention programs (BIP) provide educational groups for people who abuse their intimate partners. These statewide programs are certified according to Commonwealth statute and comply with standards that are monitored by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. The standards require 80 hours of participation in a program; classes are typically 2 hours per week. Services can be available in Spanish, Portuguese, Vietnamese, Khmer and Haitian Creole. Programs for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender and adolescent clients are also available.

The programs are also required to conduct partner contacts with the victims and survivors to provide them with referrals to supportive resources. BIP is part of a coordinated community response of the public and private sectors to work against domestic violence, which includes partnerships with police; victim service shelters and advocacy agencies; mental health and substance abuse personnel; and child protective service workers. Programs also submit written reports to the courts on a regular basis.

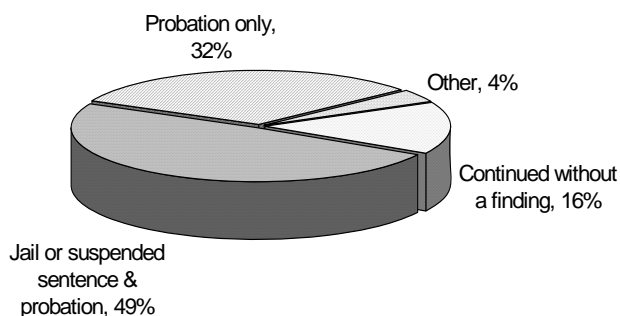
Basic program statistics

- In FY06, certified batterer intervention program served **1,793** clients.
- The clients ranged in age from **17 to 77 years old**. The average age was **34** years old.
- **Less than 1%** of the clients were women.
- **29%** of the clients were unemployed at the time of the program intake session.
- **48%** of the clients earn less than \$15,000 per year.
- Clients paid between **\$0-75** per session. The average session fee was **\$27**.
- **71%** of the clients identified as being a parent (biological, adoptive, or step) to a minor child.
- **38%** of clients reported that they have a history of substance abuse.
- **20%** of the clients reported a mental health diagnosis in their lifetime.
- **15%** of the criminal cases preceding the clients' referrals to the program were "continued without a finding" (no criminal disposition was entered into records by the judge).
- **16%** of the clients had been convicted of violating a 209a restraining order at the time of the program intake session.

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) requires certified batterer intervention programs to collect basic demographic and situational information from each client served. This information is compiled and analyzed in its aggregated form. The data is used to track program growth, trends in service utilization, and to identify linkage and training needs.

Selected statistics about Massachusetts certified batterer intervention program clients: FY06

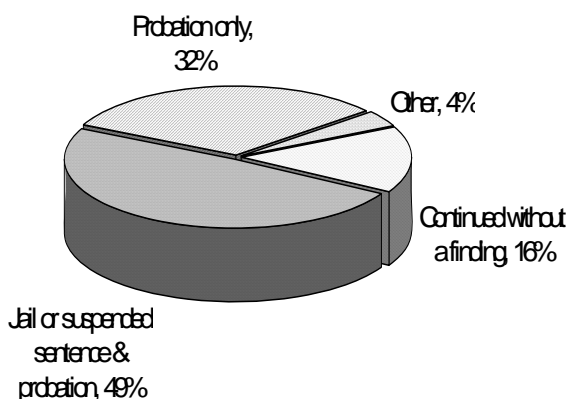
Disposition of criminal cases preceding program referral



Interpretation

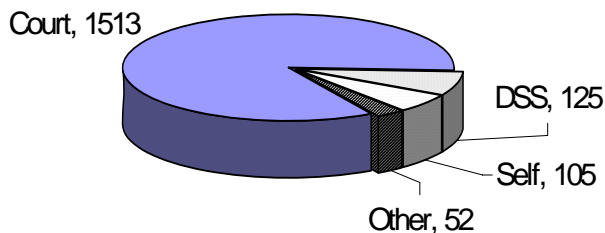
- Less than 1/5 of criminal domestic violence cases that result in referrals to certified batterer intervention programs are entered into court records as "continued without a finding".
- Approximately half (49%) of the people referred to certified batterer intervention programs for criminal domestic violence offenses are sentenced to jail for their offense.
- People of color are over-represented among batterer intervention program clients as compared to the population of Massachusetts residents identified through the 2000 census. (There are three times as many people of color in BI programs as one would expect). This over-representation may reflect potential differentials in arrest, prosecution and conviction rates, or another underlying factor related to both race/ethnicity and criminal involvement.

Disposition of criminal cases preceding program referral



Interpretation

Number of referrals to BI programs by referral source (N=1,795)



Interpretation

- 84% of referrals to BI programs in FY06 were made by courts
- DSS referred 125 (7%) of BI program clients in FY06; 6% of clients volunteered to attend the programs on their own.
- 51 (3%) of the men who attended BI programs in FY06 were referred by sources such as federal probation, lawyers, and private therapists.